

Seattle Clothing Maker to Reopen Factory in Price, Hire 30 to Start

BY PHIL SAHM

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

A Seattle company that makes sports clothes for companies such as Nike and Patagonia said it will reopen a Price sewing factory that Koret of California closed late last summer.

Rivers West Apparel plans to hire 30 workers initially and as many as 70 more, depending on the company's workload, said Rivers West owner Mike McGinley.

The quality of workers at Koret persuaded him to reopen the factory.

"In the apparel business, it's so difficult to get high-quality sewing associates. I've seen few better than what I saw down there," McGinley said.

Patagonia already has placed the plant's first orders. McGinley expects the plant also to make clothes for the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Syd-

ney, Australia.

"Our next biggest hurdle is to get enough work into the factory to place as many people as would like a job back in there," McGinley said.

Koret closed its operations late last summer when the San Francisco women's-wear company decided to refocus on clothing design and marketing. More than 100 workers lost their jobs in the closure.

News of the plant's reopening is especially welcome because most of the Koret workers have not found another job, said Michelle Lea, of the Carbon County Future Economic Development division.

"It's definitely an excellent turnaround for us," she said. "We're actively marketing for this type of business."

Rivers West operates another sewing plant in Manti and also one in Seattle.

Tax Preparer Going to Prison⁰⁰⁰⁴

Appeals court says clients not to blame for falsified returns

BY SHEILA R. McCANN

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Sandy tax preparer Vika Akaoula argued she should not be held responsible for the false tax returns she filed for clients — because each taxpayer signed their own paperwork.

But the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected her reasoning and upheld her prison sentence of 2½ years in a ruling this week.

Akaoula, 48, was found guilty by a jury in 1997 of 42 counts of preparing false tax returns, providing false information to the Internal Revenue Service and forging signatures on her clients' tax-return checks.

Federal prosecutors argued Akaoula preyed on members of the Pacific Islander community, who did not know she was including false information in their tax returns.

"The evidence clearly showed that

[Akaoula's] clients did not provide the false information," wrote appeals Judge Bobby R. Baldock. "Instead, [she] placed the false information in her client's returns. Thus, [she] cannot now hide behind her clients' signatures, which purportedly verified the information contained in the returns."

Prosecutors argued Akaoula was able to charge higher-than-usual fees for her work because she gained a reputation being able to obtain tax refunds for clients.

Akaoula was convicted of knowingly providing the government with seven documents, such as receipts, that contained false statements aimed at buttressing claims in the returns.

While Akaoula claimed she did not know the statements were false, her clients testified they did not provide her with the information. The jury could

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Geneva Gets Reprieve — at Least Until Bankruptcy Hearings Next Week

BY STEVEN OBERBECK

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Geneva Steel will be around for at least another week.

The financially beleaguered steel maker will get another chance to convince a federal judge it should be allowed to assume additional debt to stave off shutting down and showing 1,600 workers the door.

But if U.S. District Court Judge J. Thomas Greene says "no" next week, then Geneva could be out of business.

The judge has scheduled hearings beginning Tuesday and running through the week on whether the steel mill will be allowed to take on a new \$125 million line of credit that it maintains is needed for a successful Chapter 11 reorganization.

Greene said he also will consider a motion by the U.S. Trustee's office asking that an examiner be appointed to look into the long-term viability of Geneva Steel and the chances for a successful reorganization.

Geneva Chairman Joe Cannon said all of the company's major creditors support the effort to get the new

financing approved.

"And these are not charitable organizations," Cannon said, adding the companies are convinced of Geneva's long-term viability.

Ralph Mabey, a Salt Lake City attorney and former bankruptcy court judge, told Greene "we are not asking the court to hold its nose and approve this financing." Mabey said the financing was "a matter of necessity" for the company.

See **GENEVA**, Page F-2

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sistently effective.

Boat Show Displays Latest Water Products

■ Continued from F-1

New boats are a luxury item, after all, and they are now priced like it.

"People in the \$10,000 to \$20,000 range are now looking at used boats," says Jim Atkinson of Bevan Marine in West Valley, one of the oldest dealers. But don't think the dealers are doing cartwheels about it, says owner Del Ray Bevan. The boats are expensive because that's what the man-

ufacturers are making.

"There are too damn many boat dealers. There's about 40 in Salt Lake now. When I first started over 20 years ago there were four or five," he says. "That means good buys for the consumers, because it's cutthroat competition. We run on slim margins."

Boat sales are flat in Utah except for a jump in sales of the 24- to 32-foot trailerable pleasure boats, said Atkinson.

A big jump in personal watercraft sales has also hurt boat business, he said. There is one design trend boaters should keep an eye on. Many makers — even low end — are starting to incorporate race boat technology in the hull. Called the "broken-bottom" design, it incorporates a sharp crease in the

bottom of the boat.

"That throws a lot of air bubbles under the boat, which decreases friction and makes it smoother and faster," said Jerry Greaves with Beckstrand marine. "People have known for years top speeds are faster on a light chop than on glass smooth water. It's the same principle."

Also new are wakeboards with four fins. Boards now cost \$200 to \$800. Get used to them.

"It's just like snowboarding. It isn't going away. My girls really love it," says Kent Dickinson of Erda.

Today the Show runs from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission for adults is \$6. Children 7 to 12 pay \$3.

Geneva Gets Another Chance To Stay Afloat

■ Continued from F-1

The steel mill, which sits on the eastern shore of Utah Lake in Utah County, barely averted being permanently closed Tuesday after U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge John H. Allen declined to approve the company's request for the additional financing.

Allen expressed reservations about the terms of the financing

agreement and whether it would unnecessarily tie the hands of the company and the court and restrict the ability of creditors to claim an interest in Geneva's assets.

In a surprise move, Allen declared from the bench he was throwing the company into Chapter 7 bankruptcy and wanted a trustee appointed to liquidate the mill's assets.

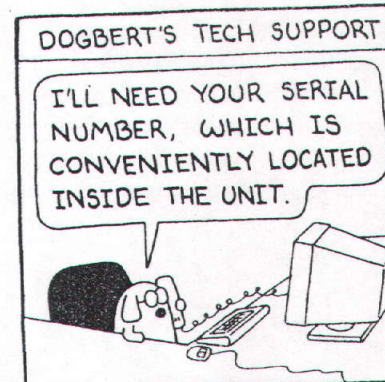
But Geneva's attorneys succeeded in getting the case removed from bankruptcy court and transferred to U.S. District Court, keeping Geneva alive.

Geneva Steel filed to reorganize under Chapter 11 on Feb. 1, saying it needed to renegotiate the terms of hundreds of millions of

dollars in debt the company took on the past decade as it modernized the mill.

The company's debt has become so overwhelming that it had to generate some \$40 million a year just to pay the interest on its notes.

DILBERT



GM Struggling to Meet Demand for Trucks, SUVs

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — If U.S. demand for new cars and trucks remains as strong this year as it was in December and January, there's "not a chance" General Motors Corp. will meet its goal of gaining 32 percent of the domestic market, GM's North American president said Thursday.

While higher demand would

normally mean more sales for the automaker, GM already is stretched thin on its most popular and profitable products: pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles.

Production capacity is no problem, Ronald Zarrella told reporters during the Chicago Auto Show media preview: Quite

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After all...you know this guy.

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS - DALLAS DIVISION

In re:	\$	
AmeriTruck Distribution Corp., f/k/a AmeriTrans, Inc.,	\$	Case No. 398-39559-HCA-11
AmeriTruck Equipment Corp.,	\$	Case No. 398-39558-HCA-11
AmeriTruck Logistics Services, Inc.,	\$	Case No. 398-39568-HCA-11
AmeriTruck Refrigerated Transport, Inc., f/k/a CMS	\$	
Transportation Services, Inc., f/k/a J.C. Bangerter & Sons,	\$	
Inc., f/k/a Lynn Transportation Company, Inc., f/k/a	\$	
Monfort Transportation Company, f/k/a Trans-Star, Inc.	\$	
(f/k/a TransStar Services, f/k/a North American Van	\$	
Lines), f/k/a CMS Distribution Services, Inc., f/k/a	\$	
Transportation Management Services, Inc.,	\$	Case No. 398-39553-HCA-11
CMS Transportation Services, Inc., f/k/a C.B.S. Express Inc.,	\$	Case No. 398-39554-HCA-11
CTV, Inc.	\$	Case No. 398-39567-HCA-11

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